

State of New Hampshire
Judicial Branch



The independence of
the judges is the great
bulwark of public liberty,
and the great security
of property.

— U.S. Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, 1821

Annual Report
2001

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Chief Justice David A. Brock

Spirit of the Judiciary

The Spirit of the Judiciary Award was established by Chief Justice David A. Brock in December 1999 to honor Judicial Branch employees whose commitment to the court system has been an outstanding example of public service.

Recipients of the “Spirit of the Judiciary” Award:

2000

Helen Kolac — Laconia District
Robert Perry — Carroll County Superior
Angelica Malloy — Cheshire County Superior
Ruth Lewis — Colebrook District
Marie Jacobs — Plymouth District
Mary Barton — Manchester District
Sheri Warburton — Merrimack County Probate
Warren Sheehan — Portsmouth District
Suzanne Doyle — Strafford County Superior
Sullivan County Superior Court Staff — Joni Salamon, Nancy Lawrence, Diane Doiron, Carolyn Stanley, Marjorie Dent, and Cynthia Silva

2001

Lorraine Robie — Belknap County Probate
Dorothy L. Palmer — Carroll County Probate
Lana Lesperance — Coos County Superior
Bernard Hughes — Plymouth District
Julianne Lodes — Manchester District
Kathleen F. Jones — Hillsborough County Southern District
Suzanne Saltmarsh — Merrimack County Superior
Linda Fredricks — Salem Family Division
Christine Hawkins — Strafford County Superior
Diane Carroll — Claremont District



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SUPREME COURT

DAVID A. BROCK
CHIEF JUSTICE



N. H. SUPREME COURT
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

To the Citizens of New Hampshire, the Governor, and Members of the General Court:

On behalf of everyone in the Judicial Branch, I am pleased to present our annual report for the year 2001. In these pages, you will see how each of the divisions of our court system has fulfilled its constitutional duty to safeguard the rights of individual citizens through a fair and impartial judicial system.

Our mission could never be achieved without the enormous efforts of our court staff whose loyalty has never wavered, even in the face of scarce resources, non-stop demands for their services and often intense public scrutiny and criticism. Each month, we honor an employee with a "Spirit of the Judiciary" award in recognition of his or her extraordinary contributions to the administration of justice in our State. Narratives concerning some of these dedicated individuals are included throughout this year's annual report.

The recipients of the "Spirit of the Judiciary" award always remind us, however, that their work for the court is a team effort and that their fellow employees share their honor. So, we dedicate this report to all of our court employees in recognition of their steadfast commitment to the administration of justice.

On a personal note, I began the year well aware of the fact that the House investigation and impeachment trial were a traumatic ordeal, not just for those of us in the Judicial Branch, but also for the people of New Hampshire.

I know that we must respond to some of the concerns raised during those proceedings; we have and will continue to do so. But I also firmly believe that we must look to the future, strengthened by our past experiences and with the same commitment and resolve we have always brought to protecting and securing the rights of the citizens of New Hampshire through an independent judiciary.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. Brock".

David A. Brock
Chief Justice

The Supreme Court

“At the court, we have worked very hard since we resumed our full strength and we have moved forward. The fair and efficient administration of justice is a solemn duty given to us by the people of New Hampshire. Our determination to carry out that responsibility is stronger than ever.”

— Chief Justice David A. Brock
Remarks to the NH Bar Association
June 22, 2001

Moving forward

The year 2001 began with change at the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Three new justices joined Chief Justice David A. Brock and Justice John T. Broderick, Jr. on the state’s highest court, which decides appeals in civil, criminal and juvenile cases and in matters involving administrative agencies. Justice William R. Johnson, who served 16 years on the Superior Court and 14 years on the Supreme Court, and Justice Sherman D. Horton, Jr., who served 10 years on the Supreme Court, had retired from active service. Justice W. Stephen Thayer, III had resigned from the court.

Justice Joseph P. Nadeau, a judge for 32 years and Chief Justice of the Superior Court for eight years, was sworn in as a member of the Supreme Court in March 2000. A month later, Justice Linda S. Dalianis, a Superior Court

judge for 21 years, became the first woman named to the state Supreme Court.

The court’s newest Justice, James E. Duggan, joined the Supreme Court in January 2001, after a long career as a professor at Franklin Pierce Law Center and as director of the Appellate Defender’s Office, during which he argued hundreds of cases on behalf of indigent clients.

With the conclusion of the House and Senate impeachment proceedings, and the court back at full strength, it directed its energy to eliminating the case backlog that had accumulated during that period. The full court also continued to screen new cases, heard oral arguments, developed innovative case management procedures, adopted major changes in court rules involving judicial conduct and performance, and reviewed court-related legislation pending before the House and Senate.



The Supreme Court. Seated (l-r), Chief Justice David A. Brock, Associate Justice John T. Broderick, Jr. Standing (l-r), Associate Justices Linda S. Dalianis, Joseph P. Nadeau, James E. Duggan.

In October 2001, the Supreme Court announced a major reorganization of its administrative staff and named its longtime clerk and reporter of decisions, Howard J. Zibel, to be General Counsel to the Supreme Court and the Judicial Branch. The court also consolidated existing staff legal services to create a new Office of Legal Counsel.

Eileen Fox, who had been the court’s legal counsel for nearly four years, was appointed Clerk of the Court and Deputy Clerk David S. Peck was named Reporter of Decisions.

The Justices had been studying the administrative structure of the court for more than a year. Information had been gathered from the staff and from the National Center for State Courts which conducted an independent review of the court’s operation.

Assuring the Highest Standards of Conduct

The Supreme Court took several significant steps this year to improve the way the conduct of judges is reviewed. Among them was the court’s decision to establish a new “Judicial Conduct Commission” totally independent of the court system. The legislature however declined to provide funding.

In addition, the Supreme Court:

- ◆ Approved a modernized revision of the Code of Judicial Conduct to set out detailed ethical standards and guidance for judges
- ◆ Established procedures for performance evaluation of Supreme Court Justices, including questionnaires to be distributed to attorneys and others who appear before the court
- ◆ Approved time standards to measure the Supreme Court’s movement of cases through the appellate process

- ◆ Formalized the existing procedures for evaluation of trial court judges
- ◆ Established an “Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics” to advise judges when they have questions involving the Code of Judicial Conduct.

More information on Judicial Accountability can be found on page 20.

Addressing the Supreme Court’s Caseload

In March 2001, Chief Justice Brock announced that, after five months of intense effort, the justices and staff had issued 121 written opinions and cleared the court’s docket of 173 cases that had been fully briefed by the parties and in most cases heard in oral argument. The court had decided all but six of approximately 138 cases that had been heard by the court before the House investigation began in April 2000. That accomplishment required a “Herculean

effort” by everyone at the court, the Chief Justice said.

The increased pace of work at the court continued through the remaining months of Fiscal Year 2001. There were 750 cases on the court docket in January 2001 and 374 new cases were filed during the next six months. The court disposed of 526 cases during that same time period, 152 more cases than it took in. During that six month period, the court issued 114 written opinions; declined to accept 200 cases and disposed of the remaining by summary affirmance, remand, dismissal orders and other action.

If that pace continued for the remainder of the calendar year, the clerk’s office estimated the justices would issue more than 200 written opinions, the highest number since 1985. If the pending caseload stayed below 600 by the end of the year, it would be at its lowest level since 1993.

(continues)

Spirit of the Judiciary



On behalf of the New Hampshire Supreme Court staff, Deputy Clerk Carol Belmain accepts a *Certificate of Appreciation* from the New Hampshire Bar. Chief Justice David A. Brock (center) and Associate Justices John T. Broderick, Jr. (left), and Joseph P. Nadeau (right) made the presentation. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION

Steady support from a dedicated staff

The Supreme Court staff was honored at the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Bar Association for their unflagging dedication to their jobs. In accepting a “Certificate of Appreciation” on behalf of the staff, Chief Justice Brock commended these hard working state employees for their commitment to the administration of justice.

“Each demonstrated extraordinary fortitude and loyalty, for which I will always be personally grateful,” Brock said.

The certificate presented to the staff members during a brief ceremony at the Supreme Court cited these “unheralded public servants whose dedication has been an essential component of the system’s continued service to the citizens of New Hampshire.”

The bar association presented its annual “President’s Award for Distinguished Service to the Legal Profession” to Howard J. Zibel, who was clerk of the Supreme Court for nine years. Zibel has served for 15 years on the bar’s Law Related Education Committee and has been greatly involved in the “We, The People” competition in which high school students test their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.



The Supreme Court Bench

The 3JX Docket

In a continuing effort to shorten the waiting time between filing an appeal and a decision, the justices initiated an innovative case management plan called the “3JX” docket which stands for “Three Justices-Expedited.” Cases may be assigned to that docket at the request of the parties or if after an initial screening the justices believe a full written opinion in the case may not be needed.

Three justices hear abbreviated oral arguments in those cases and if they reach a unanimous conclusion, issue an order stating reasons for their decision. If there is a disagreement among the three justices, the case is reheard at a later date by the full court.

From January through July 2001, 75 cases were argued on the 3JX docket and 73 were decided. The other two were referred to the full court for oral argument and opinion.

Improving Communication with New Hampshire Citizens

The first “Court Information Officer” joined the staff this year to help improve communication between the court system and the public. Work was also begun on reconstruction of the court’s website to make information about the court system rapidly accessible to all New Hampshire citizens.

The 2001 annual report is the first time in 20 years that the New Hampshire judiciary, like many court systems around the country, has presented a formal, comprehensive summary of its work to the public and state officials.



For almost 50 years, Supreme Court Justices have drawn their case assignments from this silver pitcher, which had been given to a former Justice as a wedding gift in 1917.

The Supreme Court at a Glance

FY 2001 Caseload Summary

July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2001

Pending (as of 6/30/00)	821
Filings	797
Dispositions	1,020
Pending (6/30/01)	598
% Change in Pending	– 27.2%

How the Court Disposed of Cases

FY 2001

Written Opinion	208
Declined	394
Summary Affirmance	81
Withdrawn	82
Orders After Argument	130
Vacated/Reversed	11
Denied/Dismissed	85
Others	29

The Superior Court

“We firmly believe that to get a true picture of how the administration of justice works, and what its real needs are, it is essential that you come and see the system for yourself.”

— Chief Justice Walter L. Murphy
Letter to the House and Senate
April 2001



Superior Court Chief Justice Walter L. Murphy

When a jury of your peers decides

The Superior Court is the only forum in our state where jury trials are conducted and verdicts are rendered by citizens representing their community. Thousands of New Hampshire citizens are called each year to the Superior Court for jury service, serving as a partner with the court in the administration of justice.

A day at Superior Court in the “pool” of prospective jurors, or hearing a case at trial under the impartial guidance of a judge, provides a unique look inside the judicial system. People who appear in Superior Court, charged with crimes or as parties in civil cases, depend on jurors to make critical decisions about their cases, based on the law and the evidence.

The court’s jurisdiction includes a wide variety of cases, both civil and criminal, and domestic relations. The

Superior Court handles all felony criminal cases and hears appeals of misdemeanor convictions from the district court. About a third of the court’s work involves criminal cases.

All civil lawsuits in which damage claims exceed \$25,000 are heard in the Superior Court and if a party has a claim of \$1,500 or more and requests a jury trial, it will be heard in the Superior Court.

Equity matters, which typically involve parties who are seeking judicial relief other than money damages, such as appeals from decisions of a local zoning board or disputes over title to real estate, are heard in the Superior Court. The court also hears petitions for injunctive relief, in which a party seeks an order from a judge to stop an action pending a court hearing.

Settling Issues that Divide Families

Close to half of the Superior Court workload (44 percent in calendar year 2000) involves

domestic relations matters such as divorce, legal separation, child custody, enforcement of support orders, visitation and property division in divorce cases.

There are 11 marital masters, appointed by the Superior Court, to hear disputes involving domestic relations. The “Family Division,” a pilot project located in Grafton and Rockingham Counties, also has jurisdiction over domestic relations cases. Domestic violence petitions are heard in the Superior and District Courts, as well as the Family Division.

Chief Justice Walter L. Murphy has focused attention on the need to improve public understanding of the court system and he has renewed an open invitation to lawmakers and citizens to visit the Superior Courts around the state to see justice at work.

Child Impact Seminars

“I understand how my kids feel a lot better now than I did before.”

— A parent’s evaluation

This year, a pilot project initiated by the legislature in 1993 to reduce the impact of divorce on children, became operational in all 11 Superior Court locations. Parents attend a four-hour seminar to provide valuable information on how to avoid involving their children in the negative aspects of separation and divorce.

The Superior Court reviews evaluations from these seminars and has relied on feedback from participants to adjust the program’s curriculum. Parents, often caught up in the emotional turmoil of ending a marriage, have said they didn’t realize that what they were doing to each other was affecting their children.

The topics addressed include how children react to separation

and loss, how to resolve conflicts with children and increase their self-esteem, and how to co-parent after a divorce. “The presenters did a good job of dealing with a sensitive issue,” one parent commented, “they were tactful, kind and informed.”

The Academy Program

“The thing that is incredible is we originally did it to treat offenders with drug problems inexpensively without putting them behind bars. But what we ended up doing was saving peoples’ lives.”

— Judge Robert E.K. Morrill
Sullivan County Superior Court

All 10 New Hampshire counties are now using “The Academy Program,” an innovative sentencing plan for certain non-violent offenders, that combines strict supervision, education and counseling as an alternative to serving time in prison. The Academy Program

is often a defendant’s last chance to avoid jail. Developed in 1995 by Sullivan County Superior Court Judge Robert Morrill, this year-long, comprehensive program is self-directed. Defendants must apply for acceptance into the program and if they are taken in, they are required to adhere to a strict regimen aimed at self-improvement. According to the Department of Corrections, 211 defendants were sentenced to the Academy Program in FY 2001, 132 completed the program successfully and graduated. Seventy-seven were removed without completing the program and returned to jail or prison.

Participants in the program complete courses in living skills, including parenting and money management, and must maintain a job or search for one. Substance abusers in the program must attend a required number of self-help programs and submit to random testing.



Judge Philip Hollman and Exeter High School student Rebecca Hawthorne. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PORTSMOUTH HERALD

- The Academy is based on four principles:
1. Intensive probation can be a cost-effective alternative to jail without posing a safety threat to the community.
 2. Only offenders can rehabilitate themselves, not the prison system.
 3. Punishment for infractions while enrolled in the Academy Program should be quick and reflect the circumstances involved.
 4. Existing community-based educational and self-help programs should be part of the offenders Academy Program for self-improvement.

Junior Judge and Jury

Giving high school students their day in court — as judge or a juror — is the goal of an ongoing pilot project in the Superior Court called “Junior Judge and Jury.” Students from Manchester, Nashua, Concord

The Superior Court at a Glance

Type	FY 2001 Caseload Summary				FY 2001 Re-entry* Summary	
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Re-entries	Dispositions
Criminal	8,227	11,635	11,048	8,814	9,020	8,557
Marital	6,468	8,760	8,889	6,339	14,545	14,117
Civil	3,439	4,273	4,213	3,499	1,976	1,932
Equity	1,852	3,672	3,518	2,006	524	544
Juvenile	51	48	53	46	17	13
Total	20,037	28,388	27,721	20,704	26,082	25,163

*A “re-entry” is defined as additional court action in a previously closed case.

and Exeter had an opportunity during the school year to wear a judge's robe and sit alongside a Superior Court judge to get an up close look at the process. After a day with Rockingham County Superior Court Judge Philip Hollman, 17-year-old Rebecca Hawthorne told the *Portsmouth Herald*, "It's a completely different world than what you see on *Ally McBeal*."

The program's executive director, Christopher Moore, worked with Chief Justice Murphy to get the pilot project under way in New Hampshire, with volunteer help from local lawyers, businesses, the New Hampshire Bar, the state Trial Lawyers Association, and the Nashua and Manchester Bar Associations. The objective — beyond demonstrating that the real world is different from television — is to give students a lesson in citizenship, democracy and judicial service.

Moore believes this hands-on participation in the courts, while these young people are still in school, starts the process of learning about the justice system "before indifference has a chance to take hold."

"The result will be that students will have a newfound appreciation and respect for the courts that will last well into their adult years," Moore said.

Real life lessons are brought home in the courtroom for these young "judges." Nashua High School student John Lyon watched three teenage defendants in court. "All three defendants that appeared that day had something in common besides being in court," Lyon said afterwards. "All three were high school dropouts, and I found yet another reason to value education... their lack of education obviously contributed to their current problems."

(continues)

"Being a judge means following the law, applying the constitution and protecting rights even under the most trying and outrageous circumstances. It means recognizing that the great principles upon which this country was founded and endures apply not just to the best of us, not just to the worst of us, but to all of us."

— Associate Justice Joseph P. Nadeau
From *What It Means to be a Judge*
May 1, 1999

Spirit of the Judiciary

Kathleen Fogarty Jones: Recognizing a career in the courts

Kathleen Fogarty Jones was fresh out of Kingswood Regional High School in Wolfeboro when she began working as a court assistant in Carroll County. That was 25 years ago. Kathy Jones is now office manager for the Hillsborough South District of Superior Court in Nashua, one of the busiest trial courts in the state.

At the courthouse, Kathy Jones is a caring teacher, and an efficient and creative manager who is always ready to step in where she's needed. Kathy Jones is also a wife and mother, and she has found the right balance between work and family life.

"Her priorities are lined up the way you would want them to be," said court clerk Marshall A. Buttrick who has worked with Jones for 14 years.



Bob Perry: On the edge of his seat, for 30 years

Bob Perry has been an official court reporter in New Hampshire since 1972, logging as many as 40,000 keystrokes a day into his stenograph machine during an average jury trial—sometimes as many as 60,000.

He has not taken a single sick day during all those years on a quiet but demanding job.

"You sit there and you are on the edge of your seat all day because at any moment you can be asked to read back, without hesitation and it's a very humiliating experience if things don't go well," Perry said. "And there is always somebody in the courtroom who will be witness to the blunder."

Perry plans to retire in March from the historic courthouse in Ossipee where he has been assigned since 1976. He once made it his cause to make sure that a collection of large, old photographs of lawyers and judges in handcrafted wood frames were kept in their original places on the courtroom walls. When it looked like they might be discarded because their names and places in history were unknown, Perry tracked down their identities. He had exchanged glances with those faces for years, and thought they deserved to stay.

"I was just trying to preserve a piece of the past," he said.



Superior Court Judges and Marital Masters

The Superior Court is comprised of the Chief Justice and 28 Associate Justices. There are also 11 marital masters appointed by the court.

There are 11 Superior Court locations, two in Hillsborough County and one in each of the remaining nine counties.

For additional information, check the Judicial Branch website at www.state.nh.us/courts

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Chief Justice Walter L. Murphy
Hon. Peter W. Smith
Hon. Philip S. Hollman
Hon. Robert E.K. Morrill
Hon. Kenneth R. McHugh
Hon. William J. Groff
Hon. Philip P. Mangones
Hon. Harold W. Perkins
Hon. Bruce E. Mohl
Hon. James J. Barry, Jr.
Hon. James D. O'Neill, III
Hon. Kathleen A. McGuire
Hon. Bernard J. Hampsey, Jr.

Hon. David B. Sullivan
Hon. Patricia C. Coffey
Hon. Larry M. Smukler
Hon. Peter H. Fauver
Hon. Arthur D. Brennan
Hon. Carol A. Conboy
Hon. John P. Arnold
Hon. Edward J. Fitzgerald, III
Hon. Robert J. Lynn
Hon. Gillian L. Abramson
Hon. Richard E. Galway, Jr.
Hon. Tina L. Nadeau
Hon. Jean K. Burling
Hon. John M. Lewis
Hon. Steve M. Houran
Hon. Gary E. Hicks

MARITAL MASTERS

Martha W. Copithorne
Bruce F. DalPra
Deborah Kane Rein
Pamela D. Kelly
Harriet J. Fishman
Michael H. Garner
Nancy J. Geiger
Leonard S. Green
Alice S. Love
Stephanie T. Nute
Larry B. Pletcher

Alternative Dispute Resolution: Settling Differences, Out of Court

Since 1992, the Superior Court "Alternative Dispute Resolution" program, supported by volunteer attorneys, has saved time and money for litigants and helped eliminate the backlog of civil cases in the Superior Court.

These volunteer attorneys act as neutral evaluators, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of each side in an effort to resolve a case before it goes to trial. In other cases they mediate disputes to help parties find mutually acceptable solutions and in some cases act as arbitrators, offering a non-binding decision in a case. Parties who have participated in alternative dispute resolution programs say they



Belknap County Courthouse in Laconia

feel they have more control over the outcome of their case and save on expensive fees for lawyers and expert witnesses.

In February 2001, Chief Justice Murphy honored the hundreds of volunteer lawyers who have served as mediators and arbitrators in the ADR program. According to Murphy,

290 lawyers volunteered 841 days to ADR in the year 2000. The most recent statistics available showed that of the 5,500 cases filed in 1999 statewide, 2,100 were referred to alternative dispute resolution and an estimated 60 percent were settled as a result, most within six months of when they were filed.

Participation in the Superior Court Alternative Dispute Resolution program is mandatory for all civil cases in Rockingham, Hillsborough, Sullivan and Merrimack Counties. Participation in the remaining counties is voluntary.

The Superior Court also has created a program to help parties resolve their marital cases. Volunteer attorneys, acting as neutral evaluators, help the parties better understand their respective positions and facilitate a dialogue to find ways to resolve these cases.

The District Court

“Almost 175,000 cases are filed each year in the District Court involving nearly one-half million people whose cases involve painful family and community issues. We strive each day to provide a responsive, sensitive and impartial forum to resolve these problems.”

— Judge Edwin W. Kelly



District Court Administrative Judge Edwin W. Kelly

Justice at work in your community

The District Courts are truly New Hampshire’s “community” court system. Located in 37 cities and towns, the District Courts handle all juvenile matters, domestic violence cases, misdemeanor offenses, small claims, landlord-tenant issues and other civil cases. When the District Court system was created, the legislature recognized that these types of cases are best handled locally, so it made sure that no District Court would be located more than 20 miles from the people it serves.

The judges, clerks and District Court staff all live in or near the cities and towns covered by their court, and that enables them to forge close personal relationships within those communities. Those connections help the court respond to community needs and to gauge the effectiveness of their efforts. There are 19 full-time District Court judges, and another 50 part-time judges.

A number of ground-breaking projects have been initiated in the District Court to develop comprehensive ways to deal with issues that affect families, especially those involving domestic violence and abuse and neglect of children.

Helping Our Families and Children

One of the most important efforts in 2001 has been the implementation of draft protocols to be followed by the New Hampshire District and Probate Court judges and staff in cases in which a parent has been accused of abuse and neglect involving a child. These new guidelines emphasize the need to correct the home situation within a set time frame or find another permanent place for the child whose healthy development depends on whether or not they grow up in a stable environment.

Federal funds through the “Adoption and Safe Families Act” helped fund the effort,

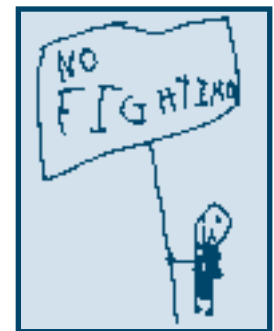
which is known in New Hampshire as the “Court Improvement Project.”

“Intuitively, we have always known that long-term foster care does not benefit children or their families. In fact, it is very harmful,” said Judge Edwin Kelly. “The Court Improvement Project offers us all an opportunity — judges, social workers and foster families — to evaluate our past and current practices and improve them for the benefit of New Hampshire’s children.”

The program’s coordinator, Kristy Lamont, has spent this year observing use of the draft protocols in Concord, Goffstown and Nashua District Courts, Hillsborough Probate Court and in the Plymouth Family Division. Court staff, foster parents and representatives from the state Division for Children, Youth and Families have been trained in the best use of these new guidelines. Their goal is to look at all these cases through the eyes of a

child who is waiting to find a place they can safely call home.

Searching for a Way to End Family Violence



The Greenbook Project, based in Grafton County, will help the court system and social service agencies work more closely together to help break the cycle of family violence.

Experts say that 60 percent of domestic violence cases also involve child abuse in the same family. But experience shows the courts and social service agencies don’t often make that link and instead go their separate ways in providing services to these children and adults,

sometimes without any communication. This year in Grafton County, with help from a \$1 million federal grant, researchers began looking for a more comprehensive way to try to break the cycle of family violence.

Grafton County is one of six demonstration sites around the country chosen to implement recommendations written by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to help battered women and their children. Called “The Greenbook Initiative,” the project is funded by the U.S. Departments of Justice and

domestic violence crisis centers, the state’s Division for Children Youth and Families, and the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence will work together on the project, which is funded for three years.

Juvenile Drug Court: Early Intervention by the Community

Adolescents who appear in juvenile court, either because of delinquency issues, truancy from school or because their parents need the court to supervise them, often have

The District Court at a Glance

FY 2001 Caseload Summary

Type	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01
Criminal	59,968	127,827	127,943	59,852
Juvenile	5,632	6,565	6,221	5,976
Civil	23,869	35,618	33,887	25,579
Total	89,469	170,010	168,051	91,407

Health and Human Services and private foundations. Grafton County, which is the only rural site chosen for the project, competed with 200 other communities for the grant money.

In New Hampshire, the Grafton County District and Family Courts, the county’s

underlying problems with drug and alcohol abuse. In 2001, New Hampshire became part of a national, early intervention effort called “Juvenile Drug Court” in which families, judges, social service agencies and schools work together with the juvenile to treat the substance abuse issues that led them into trouble.

District Court Judges

Administrative Judge Edwin W. Kelly	Hon. John A. Korbey
Hon. Pamela D. Albee	Hon. Howard B. Lane, Jr.
Hon. Wallace J. Anctil	Hon. Robert L. LaPointe, Jr.
Hon. Ellen L. Arnold	Hon. Bruce R. Larson
Hon. Thomas E. Bamberger	Hon. Paul H. Lawrence
Hon. Thomas T. Barry	Hon. Albert D. Leahy, Jr.
Hon. Urville J. Beaumont	Hon. David G. LeFrancois
Hon. Jay C. Boynton	Hon. Leo B. Lind, Jr.
Hon. Peter H. Bronstein	Hon. William H. Lyons
Hon. Susan B. Carbon	Hon. Willard G. Martin, Jr.
Hon. Bruce A. Cardello	Hon. Edward J. McDermott
Hon. Gerald J. Carney	Hon. Timothy J. McKenna
Hon. Norman E. Champagne	Hon. F. Graham McSwiney
Hon. Albert J. Cirone, Jr.	Hon. Gregory E. Michael
Hon. Clyde R. Coolidge	Hon. James E. Michalik
Hon. Martha R. Crocker	Hon. Stephen M. Morrison
Hon. R. Laurence Cullen	Hon. James R. Patten
Hon. Robert L. Cullinane	Hon. William N. Prigge
Hon. John P. Cyr	Hon. Thomas A. Rappa, Jr.
Hon. Joseph F. Daschbach	Hon. Patricia DiMeo Reardon
Hon. Paul D. Desjardins	Hon. Arthur E. Robbins
Hon. Sharon N. DeVries	Hon. Stephen H. Roberts
Hon. Paul F. Donovan	Hon. L. Phillips Runyon, III
Hon. William R. Drescher	Hon. Michael J. Ryan
Hon. John C. Emery	Hon. Lucinda V. Sadler
Hon. Francis J. Frasier	Hon. Stephen U. Samaha
Hon. Arthur O. Gormley, Jr.	Hon. Brackett L. Scheffy
Hon. Douglas S. Hatfield, Jr.	Hon. Michael F. Sullivan
Hon. H. Philip Howorth	Hon. Richard J. Talbot
Hon. David O. Huot	Hon. Gerald Taube
Hon. Peter G. Hurd	Hon. Alvin E. Taylor
Hon. Franklin C. Jones	Hon. Edward B. Tenney, II
Hon. Michael E. Jones	Hon. Edward R. Thornton, Jr.
Hon. David L. Kent	Hon. W. H. Dale Townley-Tilson
Hon. Clifford R. Kinghorn, Jr.	Hon. Robert C. Varney
	Hon. Lawrence F. Warhall

Surveys of prison populations show that 85 percent of inmates admit to a problem with drugs or alcohol and the vast majority of those inmates say their substance abuse began when they were adolescents. The goal of the Juvenile Drug Court is to identify young people with substance abuse problems and put them on a course toward a clean, sober and productive lifestyle.

“Juvenile Drug Court” pilot projects opened in Laconia and Plymouth District Courts and a program coordinator was hired with funding from the state Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery. Initial planning for the two Juvenile Drug Courts was made possible by a \$30,000 grant from the Drug Courts Program Office of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Juveniles in the drug court program work with a team that includes a treatment provider, school officials, and family members. Each child is brought before a judge on a weekly basis and the team working on the case also makes weekly progress reports to the court. If a juvenile successfully completes the program, the petition against them will be dismissed. An important aspect of the program is a two-year period of intense follow-up with the adolescent after a petition is dismissed.

Spirit of the Judiciary

Bernard Hughes: Making a courthouse safe and supportive



His long career as a police officer, a strong work ethic and a lot of Irish charm have made Bernard Hughes a much

admired figure in the Plymouth District Court and Family Division, where he is head of courthouse security. Supportive and protective, Hughes, who retired from the Cumberland, R.I. police force as chief of detectives, has found himself with a second career in the court system.

Hughes is a regular attendant at jury trials in Plymouth Teen Court, has trained security personnel for the family visitation center, gives tours of the courthouse and has been known to break into song on a moment's notice.

His colleagues say Bernie Hughes has made the Plymouth District Court and the Family Division a safe – and fun – place to work.



The Probate Court

“New Probate Court rules will help improve the efficiency of the Probate Court for individuals and families who ask our court to resolve a wide range of issues affecting their lives and property.”

— Judge John R. Maher



Probate Court Administrative Judge John R. Maher

Protecting individual rights, and resolving issues about family and property

The Probate Court has authority over all matters relating to adoption, termination of parental rights, guardianships, involuntary commitments, trusts, wills and estates and partition of property.

The Probate Court is charged with protecting the individual rights of some of our most vulnerable citizens, including the mentally and physically disabled. For those bringing a child into their family or settling the estate of a loved one, the Probate Court may be the only interaction they ever have with our justice system.

From One Generation to Another...

As the World War II generation passes, the country is entering a period of the largest transfer of assets in history. The number of filings in the Probate Court, as well as the size of the estates, has increased to reflect that change.

Each year, about \$400 to \$500 million in assets pass

efficiently, and without controversy, from the decedents' estates — through the Probate Courts — to the beneficiaries. Millions more in assets are administered under the supervision of the Probate Court through guardianships and other trusts.

Five full-time Probate Court judges have been assigned to Belknap, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham and

Strafford Counties. The Administrative Judge of the Probate Court, John R. Maher, monitors the caseload in the remaining courts around the state so that assistance is provided in a timely manner to part-time Probate Court judges. With the increasing caseload, Judge Maher is authorized to appoint District Court judges to sit in Probate Court as “masters.”

The Probate Court at a Glance

FY 2001 Caseload Summary				
Type	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01
Estates/Trusts	6,961	5,706	5,797	6,870
Adoption & Related Issues	429	809	784	454
Guardianship – Adult/Minor	7,051	1,433	1,196	7,288
Involuntary Admission	50	342	321	71
Equity	98	107	106	99
Other	122	1,288	1,243	167
Total	14,711	9,685	9,447	14,949

Good Care for an Aging Population

The need for court-appointed guardians has risen dramatically as people live longer lives, but with a growing number of functional disabilities and limitations. Family members, dispersed throughout the country and less connected than they used to be, are often unable or unwilling, to take on these guardianships.

"We are finding that people are in need of guardianships, but we don't have guardians to appoint," Judge Maher said. "We also want to make sure that guardians are doing the best job they can for their wards," Maher said.

In response, the Probate Court has worked with the state chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to recruit and train volunteers who want to serve as "Court Visitors" in the "Guardianship Monitoring Program."

in the care giving process. Court Visitors complete written reports that are submitted to the court for review and any action, if needed. The goal is to make sure that the person under a guardianship is getting good care, and that the guardian has all the resources they need to perform their duties.

The court has also partnered with the state Department of Elderly and Adult Services to conduct programs around the state to help caregivers identify people who need guardians and how to carry that out through the Probate Court.

New Rules Promote Efficiency

The steadily growing number of "pro se" cases, in which citizens come to court without a lawyer, and the complexity of many family issues, has contributed to an increase of litigation in the Probate Court. Probate Court forms, administrative orders and procedure bulletins are available

and standardize Probate Court practices, went into effect. Judge Maher said the new rules reflect new issues that have come before the Probate Court in recent years, including additional use of computer technologies and the increased need for interpreters both in foreign languages and for persons with disabilities.

The Supreme Court temporarily approved the new rules following a comprehensive review of all Probate Court rules that began in 1994. The new uniform rules give lawyers and judges consistent guidance on probate practice, avoiding conflicts between jurisdictions.

to the public on the Judicial Branch website and effort has been made to standardize Probate Court practices and procedures from county to county.

In August 2001, new Probate Court rules, designed to update

Spirit of the Judiciary

Lorraine Robie: Taking the time to care

Lorraine Robie, the deputy register of probate in Belknap County, supervises records in more than 400 cases in which

the court has appointed a guardian to watch over the care of a mentally or physically handicapped person. Hundreds of these cases involve former residents at the Laconia State School where Lorraine worked as a payroll clerk before she came to the court system. Sometimes, she said, she will recognize a name from those days and "it brings back a lot of memories." Her fellow workers say Lorraine is a compassionate person willing to go the extra mile. Lorraine says she wants people in the care of guardians to know "they have some place to turn" when they need help.



The New Hampshire Law Library, located at the Supreme Court building in Concord, houses 94,000 volumes including state and federal statutes and cases. It is the only public law library in the state.

Probate Court Judges
Administrative Judge John R. Maher
Hon. Gary W. Boyle
Hon. Gary R. Cassevechia
Hon. Raymond A. Cloutier

Hon. Michael R. Feeney
Hon. Richard A. Hampe
Hon. David D. King
Hon. Christina M. O'Neill
Hon. James R. Patten
Hon. Albert H. Weeks

The program is in operation in Belknap, Cheshire, Grafton, Rockingham and Strafford County Probate Courts.

Volunteers trained as "Court Visitors" visit the guardian, their ward and others involved

Family Division

A pilot project in Grafton and Rockingham Counties

Since 1996, the “Family Division Pilot Project” has been in operation in Grafton and Rockingham Counties. Cases are heard by judges and marital masters from all the courts.

The objective is to consolidate the different types of family matters in a single new division within the court system that would be designed to meet the unique needs of families in conflict.

The Family Division in Rockingham and Grafton Counties handles all divorce and child custody cases, domestic violence, juvenile delinquency and Children in Need of Services (CHINS), abuse and neglect cases, adoptions, guardianship of minors and termination of parental rights.

To improve the court process for families, the Family Division has:

- ◆ Simplified forms using “plain English”
- ◆ Hired case managers to help individuals in divorce and custody cases who were not represented by lawyers
- ◆ Established “timelines” for resolution of cases and monitored their progress
- ◆ When possible, assigned one judge to hear all matters involving the same family
- ◆ Encouraged the use of “neutral evaluators” to help resolve cases and reduce the adversarial nature of family law litigation

When the Family Division project began in 1996, it was intended to be an 18-month

Spirit of the Judiciary

Julianne Lodes: Keeping children the focus



The Juvenile Division at Manchester District Court has one of the highest caseloads in the state. Julianne Lodes, the supervisor of the Juvenile Division, is often the first person that families see in highly charged, emotional circumstances.

With all the demands on her time and the mountain of paperwork, Julie never loses sight of the fact that there is a child in trouble behind every case.

A lawyer who has worked with Julie Lodes for many years described the district courts as the “frontline in the daily combat of judicial proceedings.” Judges, lawyers, police officers, parents and children all have their demands, he said, and Julie handles them all “with grace and compassion.”

pilot project funded by the legislature. Since then, the legislature has not appropriated funds for the program’s expansion.

The Family Division at a Glance

FY 2001 Caseload Summary

Type	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01
Adoption	133	194	200	127
Domestic Violence	340	1,896	1,834	402
Guardianships	443	272	161	554
Juvenile	1,103	2,464	2,012	1,555
Marital	1,261	2,652	2,494	1,419
Termination of Parental Rights	117	72	90	99
Total	3,397	7,550	6,791	4,156

The Administrative Office of the Courts

From the Director

The mission of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is to provide administrative services that are efficiently centralized and which require a substantial degree of specialized knowledge and expertise. We work closely with the Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, who is the administrative head of all the courts, and with the Administrative Council, which includes a member of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of the Superior Court and the Administrative Judges of the District and Probate Courts.

Despite the fiscal constraints of recent years, our technical staff has doggedly pursued our comprehensive Court Technology Plan. We have begun to lay a foundation of modern personal computers that will support a long-awaited conversion to an up-to-date Windows-based case management system for all New Hampshire courts. And, with legislative support in the FY 2002 – 2003 budget, we now have the funds to finish hardware upgrades and to purchase a modern case management system.

Our technical staff has also made the Judicial Branch more efficient and more accountable by forging electronic connections with the state financial system and the State Treasurer.

These connections:

- ◆ Allow for prompt and accurate delivery to the State Treasurer of all revenue collected by all New Hampshire courts
- ◆ Improve revenue collections and accuracy of projections
- ◆ Promote accuracy, efficiency, and better management of Judicial Branch expenditures.

AOC staff members have supported trial court staff by providing an electronic link to the Judicial Branch Intranet which provides employee access to a host of information. We have further supported court staff with dozens of training programs carefully designed to



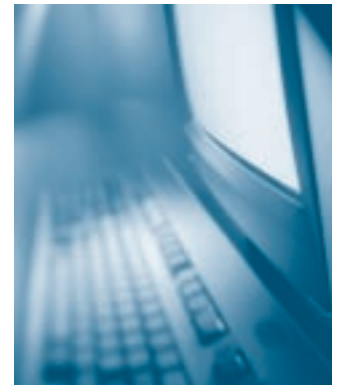
Donald D. Goodnow, Esq.

enhance their working environment and to enable staff to better serve our constituents, the citizens of New Hampshire.

We look forward in the years ahead to providing the high level of support that our judges and court staff need so they can focus their energy on their mission, as set out in the state Constitution and statutes, to carry out the fair and efficient administration of justice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald D. Goodnow".

Donald D. Goodnow, Esq.



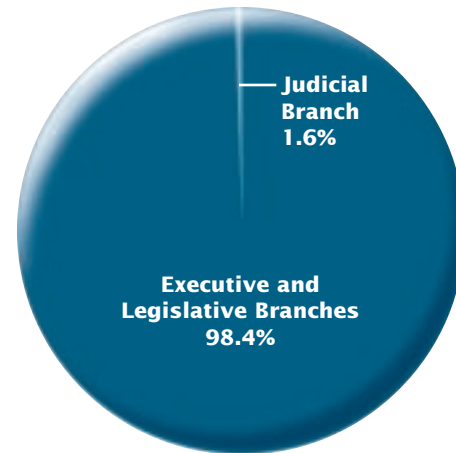
The Administrative Office of the Courts

Fiscal Overview 2001

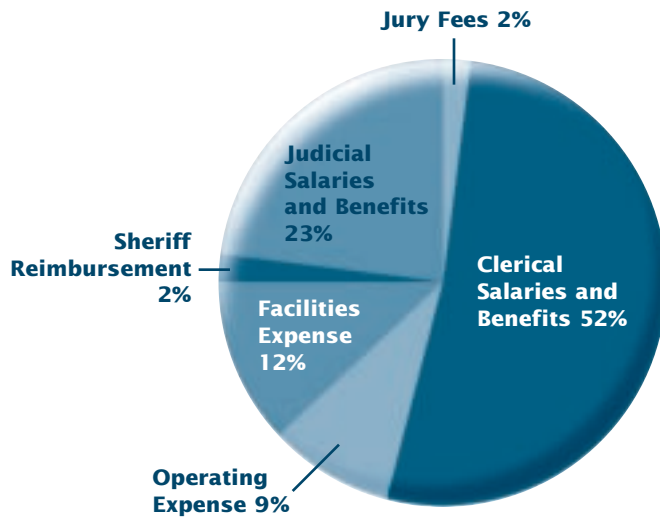
The Judicial Branch relies upon funds appropriated by the legislature for the operations of its courts. For FY 2001, the state legislature appropriated \$53,741,252. Total expenditures for FY 2001 were \$52,988,358.

Most of the revenue generated by the court system is returned to the general fund or designated to help finance other state agencies and programs, such as the Police Standards and Training Council and the Victims' Assistance Fund.

State of New Hampshire, Appropriations (for FY 2001)



The budget for the Judicial Branch represents 1.6 percent of the total state budget



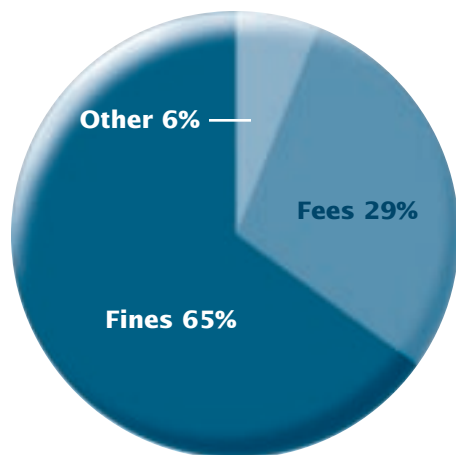
Expenditures System-wide (for FY 2001)

Judicial Branch Expenditure Summary (FY 2000 and FY 2001)

Category	FY 2000	% of Total	FY 2001	% of Total	% Change '00 - '01
Superior Court	\$ 16,578,799	32%	\$ 16,776,726	32%	1%
District Court	12,990,030	25%	13,372,387	25%	3%
Facilities (transfer to Other State Agencies)	6,779,907	13%	6,269,870	12%	(8%)
Supreme Court	5,329,180	10%	5,718,213	11%	7%
Probate Court	3,629,127	7%	3,767,133	7%	4%
Court Security	3,018,044	6%	3,016,263	6%	0%
Family Division	1,814,841	3%	1,903,547	3%	5%
Statewide Expenditures	1,123,937	2%	1,017,605	2%	(9%)
Other*	1,283,574	2%	1,146,614	2%	(11%)
Total	\$ 52,547,439	100%	\$ 52,988,358	100%	1%

* Other includes workers compensation, revolving funds for training materials and publications, default fees, grants, and facility escrow.

Sources of Revenue By Type (for FY 2001)



Judicial Branch Revenue Collections and Distributions (FY 2001)

Sources	Fines	Fees	Other	Total
Supreme Court	\$ 43,000	\$ 258,080	\$ 48,445	\$ 349,525
Superior Court	415,425	1,848,610	858,032	3,122,067
Probate Court	1,650	930,740	75,699	1,008,089
District Court	11,547,864	2,133,137	211,553	13,892,554
Family Division	30,966	333,100	476	364,542
Totals	\$ 12,038,905	\$ 5,503,667	\$ 1,194,205	\$ 18,736,777

Source "Other" includes bail forfeiture, revolving funds, reimbursements, and miscellaneous receipts.

Judicial Branch Revenue Distribution Summary (FY 2001)

Distributions	Amount	Percentage
General Fund	\$14,937,182	79.7%
Police Standards Training (RSA 188-F:31)	1,561,491	8.3%
Grants Received	723,792	3.9%
Victims' Assistance Fund (RSA 188-F:31)	478,379	2.5%
Guardian ad Litem Fund (RSA 458: 17-b)	313,206	1.7%
Facility Escrow Fund (RSA 490: 26-c)	321,053	1.7%
Default Fees (RSA 597:38-a)	104,722	0.6%
Court Transcription	105,719	0.6%
Default Bench Warrant Fund (RSA 597:38-b)	85,007	0.4%
Revolving Funds	68,261	0.4%
Highway Fund	37,965	0.2%
Total	\$18,736,777	100.0%

Additional Funding (for FY 2001)

Funding Agency	FY 2000	FY 2001
NH Department of Justice	\$ 523,039	\$ 314,827
State Justice Institute	85,909	31,408
US Dept. of Health & Human Services	108,862	136,273
US Dept. of Justice	11,146	28,262
Annie E. Casey Foundation		15,000
US Dept. of Energy		46,692
Einstein Institute for Science Health & Courts		25,000
NH Dept. of Health and Human Services	28,369	600
Total Funds from Non-State Sources	\$ 757,325	\$ 598,062

Looking Ahead: 2002 – 2003

The Judicial Branch request for funds for FY 2002 – 2003 was effectively reduced by over \$9.4 million by the legislature to \$106,015,943. A \$3.5 million capital budget appropriation will allow for updating the courts' computer system (see page 18). FY 2002 funding for security in the 37 District Court sites was reduced by 36 percent from the prior fiscal year.

Technology

“The courts’ dockets consist of 220,000 annual case filings containing 650,000 documents filed annually. We estimate that nearly 5,000,000 pages of filings are entered into the courts each year. The trend toward greater case complexity will translate into additional filings. All of this is currently done in person or through the mail. These methods of case filing are time consuming and costly.”

— Judicial Branch, Information Technology Plan

Catching up with the future

The New Hampshire Legislature has appropriated \$3,500,000 to the Judicial Branch over the current biennium to purchase the modern hardware and feature-rich software needed to allow the courts to begin to meet most obligations for the effective sharing of information with other state agencies.

With an updated system, the Judicial Branch will be able to generate summary data for the legislature to set public policy and to fulfill the need of our constituents for access to court databases.

Most significantly, the court system now has the funds needed to convert its outdated DOS operating system to a Windows based operating system. This will bring the judicial system’s computer capability in line with

the current technological environment, and create a technological platform for the future. Updated hardware will be installed at every court site so that each employee has a computer with sufficient speed and memory.

“Catching up” is essential

Currently judges and court personnel do not have electronic access to the databases of other New Hampshire courts, nor do they have access to other court sites available to the public over the Internet.

At the trial court level, there is no e-mail communication, beyond a single centrally located terminal in each courthouse. There is no Internet connection. The public cannot access case information electronically.

Updated hardware and software is the foundation for an efficient case management system.

With the upgrades now under way, court administrative staff and judges will be able to routinely extract reports and data summaries on court workload.

This technological upgrade will also enhance the court’s capacity to sort and report data needed by policy-making legislative committees, as well as allow for inter-agency exchange of information, including: filings, schedules and document retrieval.

and the ability of the court and the concerned parties to use the case file more efficiently. When lawyers file a document, they log onto the system with a password. All parties are notified electronically within 10 minutes when a new document is filed. The Court is continuing to maintain a paper case file at the Hillsborough County Superior Court clerk’s office.

Judge Smukler, who is chairman of the Court Technology Committee, said it is essential



A step toward an “electronic courthouse”

Documents in four cases consolidated in Hillsborough County Superior Court against major tobacco companies are now filed over the Internet through an electronic filing system paid for by the parties. The tobacco litigation filings are available to the public at www.nhtobacco.verilaw.com.

Judge Larry M. Smukler, the presiding judge, urged the 21 attorneys and parties to the litigation to consider electronic filing because of the huge number of documents expected to be involved in the litigation. He also noted potential cost savings

that the court system look toward the transition to electronic filing and document storage. At no cost to the system, the tobacco electronic filing project is giving the court and attorneys valuable experience for the future.

“The electronic filing project helps the court manage a large file involving multiple counties and benefits the public by allowing, for the first time, access to a case file from any location on any day at any time,” Smukler said.

The Courts and the Legislature

“The constitutional separation of the courts from the legislative and executive branches does not make judges more powerful or more important than lawmakers, governors or anyone else. But it does mean they have a decidedly different role than others for which judicial independence was created and historically protected.”

— Associate Justice John T. Broderick Jr.
Speech to the Greater Salem Bar Association
May 31, 2001



Balancing roles

The state legislature considered many court-related issues during the 2001 session. Key among them were suggested changes in the selection and retention of judges and a proposed constitutional amendment that would limit the Supreme Court's authority to make rules on administration, practice and procedure in the courts. Attention in the statehouse, in the bar, and in the news media focused on how those issues impacted fundamental principles of judicial independence and separation of powers between the legislative and judicial branches of government.

The House approved an amendment that would limit

the courts rulemaking authority and give lawmakers the final say over court rules. The Senate delayed consideration of the amendment until the 2002 legislative term that begins in January.

Any change in the state constitution would have to be approved by two-thirds of the voters and the issue is expected to be an ongoing source of public discussion and debate during 2002. Hearings on selection and retention of judges are expected to be scheduled during the upcoming legislative term.

The court's caseload, and access to appellate review, was also an issue before the legislature in 2001. The court's caseload increased dramatically over 30 years, from about 100 new

cases filed in the 1970s to a high of about 900 in 1997. But the number of justices remained at five. In an effort to manage their workload, the court in 1979 adopted a system in which the justices, in their discretion, could decline to accept an appeal.

The legislature in 2001 approved a bill that established a 13-member commission of lawmakers, judges, lawyers and members of the public to study and recommend ways to expand appellate review in New Hampshire.



Accountability

“I’ll tell you why you can trust our court will move forward. We have a group of energized and reenergized people who know full well that no matter all the turmoil outside the courthouse, the bottom line is that the hard work of rendering justice is up to them.”

— Associate Justice Linda S. Dalianis
Speech to the NH Women’s Bar Association
January 26, 2001

Building Public Confidence in the Courts

In January 2001, the “Task Force for the Renewal of Judicial Conduct Procedures,” co-chaired by Hampton attorney Wilfred L. Sanders, Jr. and the Rev. Jonathan DeFelice, president of St. Anselm College in Manchester, filed its report with the Supreme Court. The Court had asked the co-chairmen to create an independent task force that would “take a fresh look” at the way the conduct of judges is reviewed and how the rules are enforced.

Sanders and DeFelice assembled a group of 18 prominent men and women from around the state to carry out this assignment. Their work was carried out completely independent of the Supreme Court, which has overseen the judicial disciplinary process for 25 years.

Following its review, the Task Force recommended that a new “Judicial Conduct Commission”

be established that would have a majority of non-lawyer, non-judge members and would be funded by an appropriation from the legislature.

This new commission would replace the existing Judicial Conduct Committee (JCC) which has depended on the Supreme Court for staff, funds and office space. Instead of the Supreme Court having sole authority to appoint members to the judicial review board, the task force gave the power to appoint a majority of the members to the Governor, the legislature and the New Hampshire Bar.

The Supreme Court firmly endorsed the independent commission and also acted on the task force recommendation in March, when it adopted a rule creating a new Judicial Conduct Commission. But, the state legislature declined to make the needed appropriation and instead funded its own commission to review complaints against judges.

Task Force for the Renewal of Judicial Conduct Procedures

Co-chairs:

Wilfred L. Sanders, Jr., Esq.

The Rev. Jonathan DeFelice O.S.B., President,
St. Anselm College

Members:

Former Gov. Walter Peterson

State Rep. Sheila Francoeur
(R-Hampton)

DonnaLee Lozeau (R-Nashua), former Deputy House Speaker

State Sen. Beverly Hollingworth
(D-Hampton)

Gregory Robbins, Esq., former President of the
New Hampshire Bar Association

Associate Supreme Court Justice Joseph P. Nadeau

Superior Court Chief Justice Walter L. Murphy

District Court Judge Douglas Hatfield

Maurice Arel, President Pennichuck Water Works

Nina C. Gardner, Director, Judicial Council

Evelyn Handler, former President of the University of
New Hampshire

Joseph M. McDonough, Esq.

Kim A. Meader, President and CEO, Citizens Bank
of New Hampshire

John R. Newsom

Brigette Siff Holmes, Director of Community
Lawyering, Franklin Pierce Law Center

Arpiar G. Saunders, Jr., Esq.

The Rev. Robert H. Thompson, Phelps Minister for
Phillips Church

Frederic K. Upton, Esq.

Your contacts with the court system



“Each time I meet in the conference room with the other members of the court, everytime I put on my robe and take my place as the junior Justice, I think about how the people of New Hampshire have put their faith in me to do the right thing.”

— Associate Justice James E. Duggan
Commencement, Franklin Pierce Law Center
May 19, 2001

For more information about the State of New Hampshire Judicial Branch check our website at www.state.nh.us/courts. You'll find detailed descriptions there that will help direct you to the right place to find answers to your questions.

Administrative Office of the Courts

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Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2521
www.state.nh.us/courts/aoc.htm

Supreme Court

One Noble Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2646
www.state.nh.us/courts/supreme.htm

Superior Court

Superior Court Center
17 Chenell Dr., Suite 1
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2030
www.state.nh.us/courts/superior.htm

District Court

Administrative Office
32 Clinton Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-6418
www.state.nh.us/courts/district.htm

Probate Court

Administrative Office
10 Route 125
Brentwood, NH 03833
(603) 642-5437
www.state.nh.us/courts/probate.htm

Family Division

Administrative Office of the Courts
Two Noble Drive
Concord, NH 03301
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www.state.nh.us/courts/family.htm

The State of New Hampshire, Judicial Branch
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Concord, NH 03301

PRSR. STD.
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Published by The State of New Hampshire, Judicial Branch
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3,000 copies of this Annual Report were produced and printed for \$6,177.